

ITEM # 1

PREPARED BY: LOU GEATER

COMMISSIONER: FLINN

APPROVED BY: _____
COUNTY ATTORNEY

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 13-19, 2008 AS NATIONAL CRIME
VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK.

WHEREAS, 23 million Americans are victims of crime each year, and of those, 5.2 million are victims of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, A just society acknowledges crime's impact on individuals, families, and communities by ensuring that rights, resources, and services are available to help rebuild lives;

WHEREAS, Victims' rights are a critical component of the promise of "justice for all," the foundation for our system of justice in America;

WHEREAS, Although our nation has steadily expanded rights, protections, and services for victims of crime, too many victims are still not able to realize the hope and promise of these gains;

WHEREAS, We must do better to ensure services are available for underserved segments of our population, including crime victims with disabilities, victims with mental illness, victims who are teenagers, and victims who are elderly; and

WHEREAS, Observing victims' rights and treating victims with dignity and respect serves the public interest by engaging victims in the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities, and communities safer and stronger by serving victims of crime and ensuring justice for all; and

WHEREAS, Our community must strive to protect, expand, and observe crime victims' rights so that there truly is justice for victims and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims Rights Week – April 13-19, 2008 – provides an opportunity for us to strive to reach the goal of justice for all by ensuring that all victims are afforded their legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical, and psychological impact of crime; and

WHEREAS, Crime victims in Shelby County receive an array of supportive services from the Shelby County Crime Victims Center as well as other victim service agencies including the Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center, Victims to Victory, the Exchange Club Family Center, the District Attorney General's Office Victim Witness Unity, the Memphis Child Advocacy Center, the YWCA Abused Women's Services and the Cocaine and Alcohol Awareness Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, That we do hereby proclaim the week of April 13-19, 2008 as **National Crime Victims' Rights Week**, and reaffirm this County's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during national Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That We express our appreciation for those victims and service providers who have the ability to turn tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

A C Wharton, Jr., County Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Clerk of County Commission

ADOPTED: _____